

Ripped from the ROUNDUP

Ripped straight from the pages of old Space News Roundups, here's what happened at JSC on this date:

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JSC Tuesday announced crews for the Space Shuttle Approach and Landing Test (ALT), the initial flight test of the Shuttle Program. The ALT tests are scheduled to begin in mid-1977.

Two 2-man crews were named. They are: Fred W. Haise, Jr., commander, and Charles G. Fullerton, pilot; Joe H. Engle, commander, and Richard H. Truly, pilot. Both crews are scheduled to fly ALT missions with Haise and Fullerton making the first flight.

The ALT flights will be conducted at the NASA Dryden Flight Research Center in California. The Orbiter will be carried aloft to an altitude of about 25,000 feet atop a specially modified 747 aircraft. It will then be released allowing the crew to fly the Orbiter to the ground. Several unmanned and manned non-release flights will precede the initial "free flight" of the Orbiter.

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A team of NASA and university scientists observing Comet Halley in December 1985 has made the first direct confirmation of water in a comet.

The discovery, the first definite detection of neutral water in any comet, lends new support to astronomers' widely held theory that comets are "dirty snowballs" composed primarily of frozen water. The theory was first developed by astronomer Fred Whipple in 1951, but has only received indirect corroboration to date through discoveries of atoms such as oxygen and hydrogen, molecules such as OH and ions such as H₂O⁺, supposed to be the by-products of underlying ice.

"This is our first direct confirmation that neutral water is the dominant molecular species in a comet," explained Dr. Michael Mumma, head of the Planetary Systems Branch, Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, Md. The observations were made using a University of Arizona telescope aboard NASA's Kuiper Airborne Observatory, a modified C-141 Starlifter.

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JSC Security Operations Branch Chief Bob Gaffney can't explain it, but JSC employees apparently would rather wait in line at the center's main gate than drive right in through the next NASA Road 1 gate.

Security began opening the second NASA Road 1 gate at 6:45 a.m. about three weeks ago in an effort to alleviate early morning traffic tie-ups at the main gate.

Gaffney encourages drivers to break out of their early morning habit and use the Third Street gate - across NASA Road 1 from Upper Bay Rd. - when the left turn lane at the main gate is backed up.



Applications due for NASA Exchange-JSC Scholarship

The NASA Exchange-JSC maintains a college scholarship fund to provide financial assistance for dependents of JSC employees (civil service or reimbursable detailee) to attend college. This year, the Exchange Council intends to award two scholarships.

Scholarship support of up to \$4,000 will be provided in the amount of \$400 per academic semester, \$250 per academic quarter, and \$200 per summer session, or as the Exchange Council shall determine. The amount, however, will not exceed \$1,000 in any one year.

The scholarship program is open to students who will graduate from public, parochial, or private high school in 2001 or students who are currently enrolled in college and in good academic standing. An applicant must have a high school grade average of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale, or the equivalent.

Applicants must be dependents of JSC employees and other NASA employees permanently stationed at JSC who have been employed at NASA for at least two years as of Jan. 1, 2001. Dependents of JSC personnel who during the year previous to the application were medically retired or deceased and who otherwise would have met these qualifications are also eligible for consideration. For purposes of this program, the "dependent" of a JSC employee is defined as a student for which the employee claims an exemption on his or her federal income tax or who is a natural, adopted, or foster child for which the employee furnished the majority of support.

High school students will be expected to furnish a transcript of their high school grades and a record of their scores on the Scholastic Achievement Test or the American College Test with their applications, or as soon thereafter as they become available, but not later than Mar. 30. College students will be expected to furnish their most recent transcript of college grades with the applications as well as a transcript of high school grades and SAT or ACT scores.

Applicants will be evaluated on the basis of academic achievement, financial need, and involvement in school or community activities. The scholarship winners may pursue any course of study leading to a recognized degree at any accredited college in the country.

Application forms and the students' scholastic records will be evaluated by the JSC Scholarship Committee, composed of at least one member of the NASA Exchange-JSC, one JSC employee at division chief level or higher, and one representative of the Human Resources Office. All applicants will be notified by mail of the results by approximately May 15.

Application forms and agreements for the scholarship are available in Bldg. 1, Rm. 457. Contact Laura Wright (281-483-1812) for the forms or Debra Johnson (281-483-4157) for additional information. To be considered for this year's program, completed forms must be returned no later than Mar. 30 in a sealed envelope to: D. L. Johnson, JSC Scholarship Committee, Mail Code BA, Johnson Space Center, Houston, TX 77058. ■

Fourth annual Conference on International Space Station Utilization set for October

Plan to participate in the next Conference on International Space Station Utilization and exchange ideas and information with your research colleagues, as well as station technical and management personnel.

More than 150 scientists and engineers will present papers on the research capability and research initiatives to take place on the International Space Station. The objective is to provide the premier setting for extensive dialogue between space station users and space station providers. The research fields include biomedicine; fundamental biology; biotechnology; materials, fluids, and combustion research; space science; Earth science; and fundamental physics. Basic, applied, and commercial research will be included, as well as other innovative commercial activities. There will be an Exhibit Hall of International Space Station research and utilization hardware and related services and capabilities.

Make plans to present a paper, supply an exhibit, or just come, listen, and share ideas with your colleagues as well as space station personnel.

The conference will be held Oct. 15-18 at the new Kurt Debus Conference Center at the KSC Visitors Complex, Kennedy Space Center, Florida. ■

The call for papers is now available on the Web at: <http://www.oiaa.org/calendar/index.hfm?cal=1&cfp=1>

The abstract deadline is March 1.

HOUSTON: WE HAVE A BOOK-SIGNING RECEPTION

Chris Kraft and Robert Gilruth oversee the pre-launch phase of Apollo 5 in the Manned Spacecraft Center's Mission Control Center on Jan. 22, 1968.

The Arts Alliance Center at Clear Lake and STAR Books will host a book-signing reception for Chris Kraft, former JSC director and NASA's first flight director, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. on March 7. The event will take place at the Arts Alliance Center at Clear Lake, 2000 NASA Road 1, directly across from JSC.

"Flight: My Life in Mission Control" is the story of one man's mission and an entire country's destiny in Kraft's personal and historic view of the U.S. space program.

Books will be available one week before the reception in two locations: STAR Books (located inside the Arts Alliance Center) and Jeremy's Books (567 W. Bay Area Blvd.). Numbered tickets will be given out with book purchase receipts to ensure steady traffic flow during the autograph session on March 7. Proceeds from sales will benefit TAACCL art programs. For more information, call 281-335-7777.

TICKET WINDOW

The following discount tickets are available at the Exchange Stores

AMC Theaters	\$5.00
Moody Gardens (2 events) (does not include Aquarium Pyramid)	\$10.75
Moody Gardens (Aquarium only)	\$9.25
Space Center Houston	\$9.25
(JSC civil service employees free.)	
Postage Stamps (book of 20)	\$6.80

Check out our new Web site on the JSC People page at: <http://hro.jsc.nasa.gov/giftshop/>

Exchange Store hours

Monday-Friday
Bldg. 3 7 a.m.-4 p.m.
Bldg. 11 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

- All tickets are nonrefundable.
- Metro tokens and value cards are available.
- Sweetwater Pecans \$6.25 per lb.
- Chocolate-covered Pecans \$8.00 per lb.

For additional information, please call x35350.

Please bring your driver's license to pay by personal check.